

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20

SAM-01 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 081215Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9309

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SL, KU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF KUWAIT ECONOMIC TEAM

REF FREETOWNS 0133

1. ECONOMIC DELEGATION FROM KUWAIT LED BY ABDUL LATUF AL-HAMAD, IDENTIFIED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CALLED ON PRESIDENT STEVENS MARCH 6 TO ANNOUNCE KUWAIT'S INTENTION TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN AFRICA ON A BILATERAL BASIS. AL-HAMAD SAID VISIT PART OF GOOD WILL MISSION TO FOURTEEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO DETERMINE COMMON GROUNDS FOR GUIDELINES IN FORMULATING POLICY FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WITH DEVELOPING AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

2. IN RESPONSE STEVENS THANKED AL-HAMAD FOR TAKING INITIATIVE THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN SIERRA LEONE AND KUWAIT AND NOTED THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS WELCOMED AS LONG AS PEOPLE WERE IN A POSITION TO APPRECIATE ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND

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IMPACT. STEVENS HAD LAST MONTH CHIDED ARABS SAYING

"WE LIKE THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ARAB STATES TO KNOW THAT OUR ECONOMY NOT ONLY IN SIERRA LEONE BUT IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA WAS NOW IN CONFUSION BECAUSE OF THE OIL CRISIS". "WE DID NOT SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE TO BRING HARDSHIP TO OUR PEOPLE".

3. COMMENT: SINCE VP S.I. KOROMA RETURNED HOME EMPTY HANDED FROM MIDEAST SHOPPING TRIP (REFTEL), KUWAIT'S VISIT FIRST INDICATION THAT ARABS MIGHT BE PREPARED TO ASSIST SIERRA LEONE. UNDP REP HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOSL WILL SEEK ARAB FINANCING FOR SOME OF THE 80 PROJECTS TO BE IDENTIFIED BY LONG AWAITED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. DEVELOPMENT FINANCING CRITICALLY NEEDED AS GREATLY INCREASED COST OF GOSL'S IMPORTS OF RICE AND OIL HAS ABSORBED VIRTUALLY ALL REVENUE PREVIOUSLY EARMARKED FOR DEVELOPMENT. EMBASSY ASSUMES GOSL SOUGHT KUWAIT SUPPORT FOR SOME PROJECTS IDENTIFIED BY PLAN.
OLSON

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Message Attributes

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